

What is claimed is:

1. A network topology distributed discovery system, leveraging the functionality of a high speed communications network, comprising the steps of:

5 (i) distributing records of discovered network devices using a plurality of discovery engine instances located on at least one data collection node computer whereby the resulting distributed record compilation comprises a distributed network topology database; and

10 (ii) importing the distributed network topology database onto at least one performance monitor server computer so as to enable network management.

2. The system according to claim 1, wherein at least one discovery engine instance is located on the data collection node computers on a ratio of one engine instance to one central processing unit whereby the total number of engine instances is at least two so as to enable the parallel processing of the distributed network topology database.

3. The system according to claim 1, wherein a vendor specific discovery subroutine is launched upon detection by the system of a non-MIB II standard device so as to query the vendor's private MIB using a vendor specific algorithm.

4. The system according to claim 1, wherein at least one performance monitor client computer is connected to the network so as to communicate remotely with the performance monitor server computers.

5. A network topology distributed discovery system, leveraging the functionality of a high speed communications network, comprising:

(i) at least one data collection node computer connected to the network for discovering network devices using a plurality of discovery engine instances whereby a distributed network topology database is created; and

30 (ii) at least one performance monitor server computer having imported the distributed network topology database whereby network management is enabled.

6. The system according to claim 5, wherein at least one discovery engine instance is located on the data collection node computers on a ratio of one engine instance to one central processing unit whereby the total number of engine instances for the system is at least two so as to enable the parallel processing of the network topology database.

7. The system according to claim 5, wherein a vendor specific discovery subroutine is launched upon detection by the system of a non-MIB II standard device so as to query the vendor's private MIB using a vendor specific algorithm.

8. The system according to claim 5, wherein at least one performance monitor client computer is connected to the network so as to communicate remotely with the performance monitor server computers.

9. A storage medium readable by an install server computer in a network topology distributed discovery system including the install server, leveraging the functionality of a high speed communications network, the storage medium encoding a computer process comprising:

- (i) a processing portion for distributing records of discovered network devices using a plurality of discovery engine instances located on at least one data collection node computer whereby the resulting distributed record compilation comprises a distributed network topology database; and
- (ii) a processing portion for importing the distributed network topology database onto at least one performance monitor server computer so as to enable network management.

10. The system according to claim 9, wherein at least one discovery engine instance is located on the data collection node computers on a ratio of one engine instance to one central processing unit whereby the total number of engine instances is at least two so as to enable the parallel processing of the network topology database.

11. The system according to claim 9, wherein a vendor specific discovery subroutine is launched upon detection by the system of a non-MIB II standard device so as to query the vendor's private MIB using a vendor specific algorithm.

- 5 12. The system according to claim 9, wherein at least one performance monitor client computer is connected to the network so as to communicate remotely with the performance monitor server computers.

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